

# The Hawaiian Star

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) by the HAWAIIAN STAR NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Local, per annum \$8.00  
 Foreign, per annum \$12.00  
 Payable in advance.

Entered at Post Office at Honolulu, Hawaii, as second class mail matter.

Subscribers who do not get their papers regularly will confer a favor by notifying the Star Office; Telephone 365.

The Supreme Court of The Territory of Hawaii has declared both THE HAWAIIAN STAR (daily) and THE SEMI-WEEKLY STAR newspapers of general circulation throughout the Territory of Hawaii, "suitable for advertising proceedings, orders, judgments and decrees entered or rendered in the Courts of the Territory of Hawaii."

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FRANK L. HOOBS, MANAGER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1907

## Neglecting The Streets

The condition of some of Honolulu main streets suggests that there is something radically wrong with the way in which the local administration looks after the rights of the public to reasonable preservation of clean streets and sidewalks. Many weeks ago a building contractor operating on Merchants street opposite the police station, coolly destroyed the sidewalk, and nothing has been done to repair it. In wet weather the condition of the street here is such that it is almost dangerous to walk on. Is there no official whose duty it is to prevent this sort of thing? As another example King street, in its busiest part, has had big heaps of dirt piled on it and left there for days, apparently without any excuse except that those who piled it were in no hurry to cart it away. Such obstructions should receive official attention if left for a single hour in such a locality. And when contractors begin building operations which make it necessary for them to destroy sidewalks they should be forced to make a new temporary sidewalk, either around or above the one which they destroy. It is up to the supervisors.

## Los Angeles Hustling

The itinerary of the battleship fleet after it arrives at San Francisco is a matter of uncertainty. According to the plans made the vessels are to reach the Golden Gate on March 14 next. After that, Admiral Evans appears to have been given discretion to make such movements as he sees fit. But somewhere, on the Pacific side, there is to be "battle practice" and it would seem that Honolulu should stir herself to try and have it in these waters. "The navy department," says a Washington dispatch of November 16, "has heard from the various harbors adjacent to Los Angeles, each begging that the battleship fleet be ordered to stop at the only real harbor on the Pacific coast." The same dispatch says: "In any event at some time and some place the battle practice will be carried out, probably at Manila if the ships reach that part of the world. Arrangements for the yearly small arms practice will also depend upon the movements of the command. It will be necessary in any event to improvise targets at some convenient place, either on the Pacific coast or at Olongapo. Officers of the fleet are now a unit in believing they will be ordered around the world via Manila and Suez."

It would undoubtedly be worth while to set out the advantages we have for fleet maneuvers. Certainly no better waters can be desired and there is plenty of smooth anchorage. It has been frequently stated that Hawaii was decided upon as the place for such maneuvers some years ago, but that the plan had to be abandoned then for reasons growing out of the war in the Far East. Whether this report is true or not, Honolulu can do no harm by energetically backing up the resolutions which the Muskogee conference has already passed, which ask that the fleet call here. Since that resolution passed we know from cable advice that at least a call is planned. We shall probably see the fleet about July and the vessels may celebrate the Fourth here. Why not try and have the battle practice here?

## John D. a Civilizer

Another Standard Oil circular has come to hand, and from its pages one may learn not merely that the trust has a soul and is a very nice concern indeed, but that it has been possibly the greatest single contribution to the progress and civilization of the country it has had the good fortune to grow upon. Says this latest defense and eulogy of Rockefeller: "The question was recently propounded, 'What has been the greatest contribution to the progress of civilization in this country?' The natural replies—the printing-press, the steam-engine, the telegraph—were all negated by the propounder and the true answer declared to be, 'The Standard Oil Company.' Further explanation was offered somewhat in this wise: 'The Standard Oil Company, by improving the processes of refining petroleum, by raising the standard for refined oil and by lowering its price, has made it possible for the farmer, the dweller in the small towns and villages, the ranchman and the miner in their isolation, to have a safe, efficient, and cheap light, and by its help to read at will through the longest evenings of the winter. The availability of an inexpensive standard illuminant has made possible the extension of the mission of the printing-press; by bringing the distant dwellers into contact, through their reading, with the world has increased their desire and their need for travel, has spread civilization into the far corners of the land.'"

It is admitted by the author of the circular that this view may be a bit exaggerated, but he declares that there is more than a germ of truth in the suggestion. It is a new view of John D., to think of him almost ruining his health in his business of becoming a billionaire without the public ever knowing that he was really striving to enable the common people to read at night, and it is sad to think that they have used his nice oil for years to read of Standard Oil nothing but roasts.

The local baseball players have not won a game from the Coast champions yet, but they have made a showing of which they may well be proud,—and Honolulu is ready to try and do even better next year.

With over seventy automobiles turning out for a Thanksgiving morning contests, Honolulu certainly makes a fine showing as an auto town.

If there is a strike on inter-island steamers probably each side will lose more than the difference in salaries disputed would amount to in a long time, while the public suffers all around. The situation is enough to make converts for the principle of compulsory arbitration of labor disputes.

## Tales Worth Telling

## MUCH IN LITTLE.

A. J. Ulrich, traffic manager of the Keystone Telephone Company of Philadelphia has taken the word "please" from the vocabulary of his exchange girls. They will hereafter say "ring off" instead of "please ring off," "call again," instead of "please call again," and so on.

"The word 'please,' Mr. Ulrich explained to a reporter, 'was used in our telephone business 900,000 times a day. Allowing half a second for its utterance, that meant a daily waste of 125 hours. Why shouldn't all those hours be saved, saved for some better use?'"

"You know," Mr. Ulrich went on, "I believe in few words. Wasted, superfluous words mean spoiled effects. What for instance, could have been more telling, more effective than the note, containing not a single superfluous or wasted word, that a man once wrote to his physician?"

"This note ran: 'Dear Doctor—I had a few words with my wife last evening. Please send me a bottle of lotion.'"

## THE PRUDENT PIPER.

Thomas F. Ryan, the noted financier, was talking about music in the smoke-room of the Deutschland.

"I like all music," he said, "except such native and special sorts as the tom-tom, the bagpipe or the Indian hufaa give off."

"Speaking of bagpipes, did you ever notice how a piper prances up and down as he pipes? He never sits, he never stands still, but up and down, round and round, to and fro he struts continually."

"A little boy, listening to the weird skirl of the bagpipes of a street performer, once said to his father:

"Father, why does the piper keep on the move all the time he plays?"

"I can't say, my boy," the father answered, "unless it is to prevent any one getting the range with a cobbler's stone."

## A DIFFICULT LINGO.

"When George Ade wintered in Egypt," said a Baltimorean, "it amused him a good deal to see the serious way in which his fellow tourists took their smattering of Egyptian archaeology, of the Arabic tongue, and of the ancient Egyptian dynasties. They had picked up all this flimsy knowledge in a week or two's reading, but they acted as though it was the precious fruit of a lifetime's study."

"At Assouan one fine day a young woman from St. Joseph complained that she could not understand the Arabic of her guide. To the crowd that encircled her she pointed out the guide—a bent old fellow with a white beard—and she said bitterly that, after her thorough study of Arabic, it seemed strange that she and this guide could not converse."

"From the rear of the crowd Mr. Ade called gravely:

"It's your own fault, Miss Hodson. You should have hired a younger guide. These toothless old ones all speak gum Arabic."

## MANSFIELD'S REBUKE.

A group of theatrical men were talking in New York about the late Richard Mansfield.

"Mr. Mansfield," said one "was a delightful humorist, a splendid raconteur in society, but at the same time he had a certain proper and becoming sense of his own dignity, and it never paid to be unduly familiar with him."

"He was, as we all know, rather bald. He resented, from barbers or friends, any allusion to his baldness."

"Well, one night at a party a man came up behind this great artist, staggered him with a violent slap on the back, and exclaimed in a loud, jovial, familiar voice:

"Hello, Dick. How are you? Every time I see you you get bald and bald."

"Mansfield drew himself up. He sneered at the other."

"Hello," he said, "I don't know who you are, but every time I see you you get ruder and ruder."

## BUT THEY KEPT THE NICKEL.

President Shonts of the Interborough Company of New York said at a recent dinner:

"A public servant does its best to please the public. As time passes, its service continually improves. Nevertheless when the public servant happens to be a street railway, it is but natural that its cars should be more crowded in the rush than in the idle hours."

Mr. Shonts smiled.

"And crowded cars mean complaints, don't they, the world over?" he said. "I remember once being on a crowded car in Cincinnati."

"A man hung to a strap near me. He was a polite man, and, to let people on and off, he kept on the move. Now he ran to the front of the car, now to the rear, now to the middle, wherever there happened to be most space. And it was plain that all this hustling and bustling and rushing to and fro made him angrier and angrier as time went on."

"He restrained his rage till he came to get off. Then, all of a sudden, it overpowered him."

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"He turned to the conductor and yelled, very red in the face: 'Gimme my money back!'"

"What for?" said the conductor.

"You've had your ride."

"Ride, do you call it?" barked the man. "Why, I've walked the whole blessed way."

Recorded Nov. 22, 1907.

W J White and wife to Fannie O Prater, D; 2 pos land, Makiki and Domain streets, Honolulu, Oahu. \$80 and mtg \$2000. B 809, p 47. Dated April 4, 1907.

D Kahaula to Liliuokalani Dominis, M; 1 25-100 ac land, Makiki, Lahaina, Maui. \$150. B 295, p 491. Dated Jan 22, 1907.

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